

## Paris Correspondence.

NO. 1718.

Paris, July 25th, 1870.

Mr. Editor.—When I wrote you last, I was far from anticipating that the cloudy aspect of the political relations between France and Prussia was to assume, in a short time, a decidedly threatening appearance. It is unfortunately too true, that before a few days are over, a terrible work of destruction will have taken place.

"*Adieu, adieu!*" Ce n'est pas sans regret que le Bosphore, but in the present context, if the destinies involved are not less important, more terrible will certainly be the awful encounter of two great and powerful people having at their disposal the destructive agents of war invented by human genius since the days of the Roman conqueror. But since war is a necessary evil, it will demolish this silly world as long as it will revolve, and under the present circumstances, as it could not be avoided, it is just as well that the two gigantic antagonists "have it out," and restore, as soon as possible, to the disturbed continent of Europe, the benefits of a durable and fruitful peace.

Now, Mr. Editor, I perceive that my duties as correspondent for your estimable GAZETTE, are becoming rather embarrassing, for the reason that I count many dear friends belonging to both nationalities; while on the other hand, my being a "Fascist," might make me liable to the accusation of partiality to my own country. I will turn aside this double obstacle by abstaining from any personal comments and sowing about national prejudices. I will give you, day by day, the information that I may be able to gather here. It will be the French side of the question.

I wish I could likewise transmit to you the news from the other side, but the postal communication between the two countries is very difficult, and the telegraph wires have already been cut off by order of the Prussian Government. Your German Correspondent will probably fill up the blanks left by your Paris Correspondent, and by that means, you will arrive at a conclusion of facts. Leaving to wiser men than myself the responsible task of drawing conclusions and deciding who is in the right and who is in the wrong, I plunge into the details of the subject, and am assisted with the part of a faithful translator of documents, officially printed and counter-signed.

The cause of the war, (French point of view) is clearly expressed in the diplomatic circular of M. de Durbach, Gramont, H. I. M's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the translation of which reads as follows:

—Paris, July 21st, 1870.

Sir.—You are already acquainted with the succession of facts that have led to the disagreement with Prussia. The communication that the Government of the Empire has brought, on the 15th of this month, at the throne of the great bodies of the State, and the text of which I have sent you, has exposed to France and Europe, the rapid turn of a negotiation, in which, while we were exerting our efforts in order to preserve peace, were disclosed the secret designs of an adversary who had made up his mind to render it impossible. Whether the Cabinet of Berlin have deemed that war was necessary to carry out projects prepared long before-hand, against the autonomy of the German States; whether—now not satisfied with having established, in the centre of Europe, a military power that has become dangerous to all its neighbors—they want to profit by their strength obtained, in order to displace, for their own advantage, the natural equilibrium—the will intention to deny us the most indispensable guarantee for our security as well as for our honor, is disclosed with the utmost evidence in all their conduct.

This has been, without a doubt, the plan formed against us. An understanding mysteriously prepared by secret agents, would, if light had not shown prematurely on their schemes, have led them so far, that the candidature of a Prussian Prince to the Crown of Spain, would have been suddenly disclosed to the assembled Cortes. A vote taken by surprise, without giving to the Spanish people time for reflection, would have proclaimed, as was hoped Prince Leopold de Hohenzollern, as heir to the sceptre of Charles V. Thus, Europe would have been in presence of an "unaccomplished fact," and speculating upon our reverence for the great principle of international sovereignty, they expected that France, in spite of a passing displeasure, would stop before the seemingly expressed will of a nation, for whom our feelings of friendship are well known.

As soon as they knew of this peril, the Government of the Emperor has not hesitated to announce it to the Representatives of the Country, as well as to all the Foreign Cabinets. Against those schemes, the judgment of public opinion was to become their most legitimate anxiety. The imperial attitude were nowhere desired about the true situation of things; they have easily understood—that if we were peacefully afflicted to see that Spain was to be made for the exclusive interest of an ambitious dynasty, to play a part so unworthy of that loyal and chivalrous nation, so little in conformity with the instincts and traditions of friendship, by which it is united with us—we could not entertain the idea to believe our constant respect for the independence of its national decisions.

They have felt that the unscrupulous policy of the Prussian Government had all to do in this affair. It is indeed that government, who not deeming themselves bound by common law, and scorning the rules to which the most powerful nations have had the wisdom to submit themselves, have attempted to impose upon deceived Europe a dangerous extension of their influence.

France has taken in hand the cause of all the nations that are threatened by the disproportionate enlargement of a royal house. In so doing, was France acting inconsistently, as they have tried to insinuate, with her own maxims? Assuredly not.

Every nation—we like to proclaim it—is free to manage its own affairs. This principle, openly affirmed by France, has become one of the fundamental laws of modern politics. But the right of each nation, as well as of each individual, is limited by the right of others, and it is forbidden that a nation, under the pretence of exercising its own sovereignty, should menace the existence or the security of a neighboring nation. It is, in the same sense, that Mr. de Lamartine said in 1847, that, whenever a Sovereign is to be selected, a government has never the right of laying a claim for, but always the right of excluding a candidate. That doctrine has been admitted by all the Cabinets under circumstances analogous to those in which we have been placed by the candidature of the Prince of Hohenzollern, particularly in 1831 in the Belgian question, and in 1830 in the Hellenic one.

In the Belgian affairs, the voice of Europe itself was heard, for the five great powers imposed their decision.

The three Courts, that had taken at heart the welfare of Greece, acting under a common thought of general interest, had agreed beforehand not to accept the throne of Greece for any Prince of their respective families.

The Cabinets of London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin and St. Petersburg, when assembled in the conference of London, appropriated that example to themselves, and made it a rule of conduct for all, in a negotiation where the peace of the world was at stake, and they thus rendered a solemn homage to that great law of the ponderousness of the forces, which is the basis of the European political system.

Vainly did the national Congress of Belgium persist, notwithstanding the resolution, in electing the Duke de Nemours. France complied with the engagement it had taken, and refused the crown brought to Paris by the Belgian Deputies. But, at the same time, enforced the exclusion of the claims of the Duke de Leuchtenberg, which had been opposed to those of the French Prince.

throne, the Government of the Emperor was adverse to the candidature of Prince Alfred of England, and at the same time, to that of another Duke of Leuchtenberg.

In Greece at the time of the 1st vacancy of the England recognizing the authority of the considerations invoked by us, declared that the Queen would not authorize her Son to accept the crown of Greece. Russia made a similar declaration for the Duke de Leuchtenberg, although, by reason of his birth, that Prince was not absolutely considered as a member of the Imperial Family.

And lastly, the Emperor Napoleon has spontaneously applied the same principles in a note published in the "Moniteur" of September 1st, 1869, disowning the candidature of Prince Murat to the throne of Naples.

Prussia, which we have not failed to remind of those precedents, seemed for one moment, to yield to our just complaints. Prince Leopold desisted from his candidature, and one could think that peace would not be broken. But that hope has soon given way to new apprehensions, and finally to the certainty that Prussia, without seriously withdrawing any of its pretensions, was only trying to gain time. The language, at first hesitating, and then decided and haughty of the Chief of the House of Hohenzollern, his refusal to bind himself to maintain the following day renunciations promised the day before, the treatment inflicted on our ambassador, to whom a verbal message interdicted any new communication on the object of his mission, and at length the publicity given to this unwelcome treatment by the Prussian newspapers, and by the notification of the same transmitted to the Foreign Cabinets.—All these successive symptoms of aggression do not leave any doubt in the minds of the most prejudiced people. It is any illusion to be indulged in, when a Sovereign, commanding one million of soldiers, declares, his hand on the hilt of his sword, that he will take advice of himself and of the circumstances? We were brought to that extreme limit, when a nation, sensible of her own dignity, cannot compound any longer with her honor.

If the last incidents of this painful debate were not throwing a vivid light on the projects entertained by the Cabinet of Berlin, there is one circumstance, less known to this day which gives their conduct a decisive signification.

The idea of the accession of a Prince of Hohenzollern to the throne of Spain was not a new one. Already, in the month of March 1869, it had been disclosed by our Ambassador at Berlin, who was at once directed to let Count de Bismarck know how the French Government would look upon such a contingency. Count Benedetti, our Ambassador, in several conversations that he had on the subject both with the Chancellor of the North German Confederation and with the Sub-Secretary, Minister of Foreign Affairs, did not conceal from them that we should not admit that a Prussian Prince came to reign on the other side of the Pyrenees.

Count de Bismarck, on the other hand, had declared that we should not be preoccupied about a scheme that he himself deemed impossible, and during the absence of the Chancellor Federal, in a moment when Mr. Benedetti was showing himself incredulous and pressing, Mr. de Thile had pledged his word of honor that the Prince of Hohenzollern was not, and would never be allowed to be a candidate for the throne of Spain.

If we were to suspect the sincerity of official assurances, as positive as those, diplomatic communications would cease to be a token of European peace; they would be nothing but sources and danger. And, although our Ambassador transmitted those declarations, with reservations, the Government of the Emperor had welcomed them with satisfaction, and refused to doubt their sincerity, when, all at once, the scheme that was a signal negation of the same, was disclosed. While unexpectedly retracting the word she had given us, without even trying to make an application to be relieved from it, Prussia was, in fact, setting us at defiance. From that time, we were conscious of the value to be attached to the most formal protestations of the Prussian statesmen, and we resolved to preserve, for the future, our loyalty from mistakes, by an explicit warranty. It was, therefore, our duty to insist, as we have done, in order to arrive at the certainty that a renunciation that had always been surrounded by subtle distinctions, should, this time, be definite and serious.

It is but just that the Court of Berlin have, before history, the responsibility of the war that it has been seeking. And, under what circumstances has it sought it? It is when, for the last four years France, giving it the proofs of a constant moderation, has abstained, with somewhat exaggerated scruples, from invoking against it the Treaties concluded through the very medium of the Emperor; the willful forgetfulness of which is made apparent by all the acts of a Government which thought to get rid of them at the very time that it subscribed to them.

Europe has witnessed our conduct, and has been enabled to compare it with that of Prussia during the course of this period. Let Europe pronounce on the justice of our case. Whatever may be the fate of battles, we await, with confidence, the judgment of our contemporaries, as well as that of posterity.

(Signed.)

GRAMONT.

This important document will show you what are the considerations (from a French point of view) that have brought about the deadly struggle that is soon to take place between France and Prussia. It may be that the conflict might have been postponed for some time, and some say that the renunciation of the Prince of Hohenzollern ought to have been considered by the Emperor as a sufficient statement for the fears entertained by the French Government; which others contend that the fact of the pretensions of Prince Leopold to the throne of Spain, dating back for many months, was an indication of the bad intentions of the Prussian Premier against the peace of France, and that it was necessary to insure the future against the recurrence of such troubles by a solemn declaration of the King of Prussia. Not only did he refuse to make it, but he rendered war inevitable by refusing to receive the French Ambassador, Count Benedetti, and letting him know, by an Aide-de-camp that any further discussion on the subject was useless. To impartial minds—and I flatter myself that I belong to the unprejudiced

category.—It is evident that war was desired by both parties, and the documents lately published from the English blue-book, at the request of several members of Parliament, plainly show that the peaceable mediation of England, which endeavored to appease the excitement, was absolutely declined by each of the parties concerned. War will decide, not perhaps who is right, but which of the two belligerents has the best and quickest mode of destruction. It is a match between the improved rifle—Chassepot vs. Needle-gun. However, the enthusiasm here is akin to fanaticism.

In less than fifteen days, 150,000 young men have enlisted as volunteers for the period of the war, and some of them, belong to the richest and most aristocratic families of the country. Several millions of francs have been collected by private parties, to be devoted to the assistance of the wounded, and the probable victims of the bloody strife. The other day, at Bordeaux, more than 50,000 citizens followed the soldiers who left for the seat of war, and cheered them, singing the mighty "Marseillaise" until they were out of sight. Five hundred thousand men are already on the frontier of the East, and the Emperor has taken the supreme command of the seven "Corps d'Armée."

At the present moment, with the additional help of the "Garde Mobile," 1,000,000 men are under arms, and each regiment is furnished with four "mitrailleuses," a new engine of death, discovered, as they say by Napoleon himself. I have heard from an eye-witness, of the terrible effects of that new revolving cannon, and it makes one shudder to think that men should resort against each other to such means for shortening the limited term of life. At 1,800 yards, a "mitrailleuse" killed and scattered to atoms 500 inoffensive horses in less than three minutes. If I give you all these details, it is to prove to you, (as you will see by the proclamation of the Emperor to the army) that France is conscious of the worth and strength of Prussia, that she takes all kinds of precautions against her powerful antagonist.

In the Navy Department, which is not inactive, and lately, being in Cherbourg, (my native place) I saw in the roadstead of that noble seaport, an iron-clad fleet of eighteen men-of-war, seven of which have already left for the Baltic Sea, after having been visited and inspected by no less a personage than the Empress herself, who came from Paris on Sunday, the 24th inst., to read to the French troops the proclamation of the Emperor, who could not come to see them, being on the eve of his departure for the camp, with his son, the Prince Imperial, who, for the occasion, has for the first time put on the uniform of Sub-Lieutenant.

Since war must take place, it is to be hoped, in order that it may arrive at a speedy termination, no other nation will take part in it. Declarations of the strictest neutrality have already been made by England, Russia, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, Belgium and the Netherlands, and unless some unforeseen complication should arise, it is very likely that neutrality will be observed throughout the war.

I will here give you a translation of an article in the *Journal Officiel*, showing how eager both parties are to propitiate the terrible power of the great goddess of our civilized times, I mean, Public Opinion. The article reads as follows:

"It has been objected that France had carried on the negotiations at Ems, instead of pursuing them at Berlin, through the ordinary channel. It is the Representative of England in Prussia, Lord Loftus, who will give the wanting explanation. He declares, in fact, by a dispatch dated the 6th of July, that the Cabinet of Berlin, disowning all interest in the question, and claiming that it was a matter concerning the royal family of Prussia, had declined all responsibility in the candidature of the Prince of Hohenzollern. 'It was,' quoting the expression used by Mr. de Thile, 'a matter that did not exist for the Prussian Government.' Being unable to act at Berlin, we were then under the necessity of carrying on the negotiation at Ems, near the King himself, who had an interview with our Ambassador."

"It has been also asserted that, in the course of the debate, France had modified and increased her pretensions."

"The English documents establish, on the contrary, that from the first our diplomacy 'always placed itself on the same ground.' The first dispatch addressed by the Duke de Gramont to Count Benedetti, terminates with this sentence: 'In order that the renunciation shall be effective, it is necessary that the King should give you the assurance that he will not authorize the candidature on any other occasion.'"

"It has been affirmed that France, in making that request of the King of Prussia, had made a request contrary to the dignity of the monarch. The best proof that such is not the case, is that Lord Loftus 'urged the King of Prussia to grant as what we desired.'"

"To the Prussian newspapers which assert that France wanted war at any cost, we answer by referring them to the dispatch of Lord Lyons, under date of July 13th. The English Ambassador writes to Lord Granville that France had but one wish—that of obtaining from the King of Prussia the engagement that he would prevent the Prince of Hohenzollern from accepting the throne of Spain. Lord Lyons adds in the same dispatch, that he asked the Duke de Gramont to authorize him to transmit that declaration to Her Majesty's Government. The French Minister took a sheet of paper, which he placed in the Ambassador's hand, after having written on it the following statement: 'We request of the King of Prussia that he forbid the Prince of Hohenzollern to recall his word. If he does it, the trouble is over.'"

But, as I was saying above, my opinion is that war might have been averted for a while if either party had desired it, and yet, as it would have been at the expense of the pride or dignity, as some may term it, of either of the two defiant foes, peace could not be durable, and where arguments are vain, force must prevail.

In the midst of these feverish expectations of excited Europe, I can not help remembering the quiet and undisturbed life of the shores of Hawaii—shores that will never witness horrible scenes of desolation and destruction, but will ever be the seat of prosperity and happiness. Such is the earnest wish of

Yours, truly,

FARNS.

## Hostility to the Chinese.

BY WILLIAM LLOYD GARNETT.

A short time since, a shoe manufacturer in North Adams, Massachusetts, needing more workmen than he could obtain in his locality at fair wages, owing to a dictatorial combination, sent to San Francisco for seventy-five steady, active and intelligent Chinese, such as are quick to learn a trade, and entered into a satisfactory contract with them for three years' services. Forthwith, he was severely denounced and menaced, and for a time endured in great personal danger. The most inflammatory appeals were made to the working classes generally to resist, as for their lives, the introduction of this kind of labor, as calculated to materially lessen their wages, if not utterly to deprive them of employment. Political demagogues essayed to make it a favorable occasion to bring into

their mill. The infection entered Congress, which body disgracefully proceeded to amend, or rather to keep in operation the old pro-slavery naturalization law, so that no Chinaman, whether here or coming across, can ever become a bona-fide citizen of the United States, however desirous of doing so, and no matter what his intelligence, pecuniary condition, usefulness, or patriotism—a law which liberty execrates, and justice repels as violative of the equal rights of human brotherhood. Even the pulpit, as well as the press, in some instances, give indulgence to unseemly and certainly most unchristian denunciations of the Chinese as a barbarous and idolatrous race, whose presence among us, in any considerable numbers, is to be regarded with disgust and alarm, as imperiling all that we hold dear, even the stability of our holy religion itself!

With this aroused selfishness was mingled no small measure of cant and hypocrisy about the horrible traffic; as if that traffic had any thing to do with all this outcry, which began with the North Adams experiment, and which means utter hostility to all Chinese immigration to this country, however intelligent and voluntary.

Now, if there was ever an illustration of a tempest in a tea-pot, or of a mole-hill magnified to the dimensions of a first-class mountain, it is seen in this instance. Mr. Sampson, the North Adams contractor, simply asserted his unquestionable right as an employer, as against a browbeating and exacting combination, to obtain laborers as best he could in the broad fields of industrial wants. For doing this in so fair and quiet a manner he deserves credit, and will in the end be sure to receive it. Be it observed that he did not send to China to induce the needed workmen to come over and engage in his service, though he might have done so without giving any just occasion for complaint; for thousands of Germans, Scandinavians, Englishmen, Irishmen, etc., have been contracted for on their native soil, before reaching these shores, and no valid reason can be given why Chinamen should not be as freely induced to add their skill and labor to our capital stock, to the development of our unlimited resources, and the consequent expansion and prosperity of the republic. The laborers he engaged were residents of San Francisco, quietly pursuing whatever employment they had been able to find. Offering them better wages than they were then getting, they evinced their good sense and thrifty disposition by accepting his overtures; and to this hour both parties are abundantly satisfied. Certainly, the contract concerns none but themselves. It was made at a common risk, in the usual manner, and under lawful conditions; and it is equally absurd and impertinent for any to inveigh against it.

The peculiarity of the excitement created by this movement is, it rages most intensely among those who are themselves foreigners; who have no better right to residence or employment here than the Chinese; who would be summarily ejected from the land if their own proscriptive policy toward this class were enforced in accordance with their wishes; who brought with them an amount of destitution, ignorance and degradation, as a mass, sufficient to make out a case for their expulsion, if any such could be found; and whose enlightenment is no easy matter to achieve. Especially is this true of the Irish, who seem to regard two countries as entirely their own—namely, the one from which they came, and the one to which they have come. They went in a mass against negro emancipation, on the ground that the liberated bondmen would flock to the North, and successfully compete with them in the labor market; just as they are now arrayed against Chinese Immigration for a similar reason. But even they have seen the folly of their selfish fears in regard to the Southern freedmen; and it is no less signal in the present instance.

A fair field to capital and labor, and no favor! Our national domains are ample to receive the population of the globe. We have not ten people to the square mile; Belgium has five hundred, and flourishes. Our ports are open to all comers, so far as legitimate and voluntary immigration is concerned. Like charity, the act is twice blessed; for in the sequel, in spite of attending drawbacks and temporary perils, the general welfare is thereby enlarged and secured. We call ourselves Americans; but we are fast becoming cosmopolitan, not to our disadvantage, but to the gain of mankind. What constitutes our real glory is not simply what it is possible for us to become, but what we have already done. All the nations of the earth are more or less strongly represented on our soil, and we are still attracting their oppressed and laboring millions by an irresistible magnetic power. Still let them come to the welcoming of all, to the extension of none; or, if preference be shown to any, let it be to the class of races most needing to be raised in the scale of civilization and Christianity. Here there is an abundance of food; here scope for industry, enterprise, and invention to any extent; here almost every variety of climate, from the arctic to the tropical; here are millions upon millions of acres to be cultivated; here inexhaustible mineral riches to be extracted; here mechanics and manufacturing possibilities beyond computation; here the means of popular enlightenment on the broadest foundation; and here the freest institutions to be found in the world. What a change has been effected in the condition of the millions who have sought these shores in quest of food for the body, light for the mind, and equal rights before the laws! They have saved a vast amount of foreign missionary labor and expense, and enabled our nation to be the educational school of the world.

True, such a continual influx of foreign destitution and ignorance presents a formidable aspect, and occasionally gives rise to serious apprehensions, even in thoughtful minds, lest the burden be heavier than we can bear, and the strain greater than our constitutional safeguards can resist; but it affords as alike the opportunity and the incentive to make our educational facilities equal to every emergency, and is a constant appeal to our moral and philanthropic activities in behalf of those who need all possible assistance. Let us have faith in universal liberty and impartial justice, come what may. Let us be true to the principles we profess in respect to the rights and claims of human nature, and we need not fear the result. We have nothing to fear but our own cowardice, selfishness, and recreancy to duty. Giving ourselves nobly to the task of making of this nation one people in all that relates to virtuous liberty, and abolishing all caste distinctions, we shall not only be safely carried through every trial, but abundantly favored of heaven.

To the craven plea that the Chinese are idolaters, and therefore must not be allowed to settle among us to the peril of Christianity, no other reply need be made than that it presents an excellent reason for extending to them the largest measure of hospitality—that is, if it is the mission of Christianity to overthrow idolatry; for cannot the work be far better done on our own than on a distant shore? What shall be said of the religious faith of those who raise this outcry? What is it better than sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal? Why send missionaries to the ends of the earth to convert idolaters, if the chances are

that it is the former, who will become proselytes to the latter.

Whether the Chinese are idolaters or not they are not to be denied their share of liberty and equality under the Constitution of the United States on that account. They must take their chance with the rest, where free thought and free inquiry and free speech and the right of conscience are accorded to all. One thing is certain, they cannot be converted by persecution, but by persuasion. They are said to be remarkably docile, imitative, teachable; and, if we deal fairly and justly with them, we may reasonably hope to see them gradually assimilating to our own views of religious faith and practice. Thus far their inoffensive behavior has put their traducers to the blush. Let them be fully protected.

## Sleep As An Institution.

One of the pleasantest places in the world in which sleep can visit us is a summer meadow, when the grass is in flower. You nestle down among the tall, pliant green stalks, with a canopy of great white oxalisids nodding over your head. You lazily watch the big "bumble" bee, in his velvet suit of black and orange, bustling about from clover-top to clover-top—a fretful lover, or a testy honey-merchant, whichever he may be, for he will reply to no questions. Presently he will come bounding at you, as if you were an interloper whom he at once hated and despised; and then he will make off in a sudden rage, as hot and fiery as Blue Beard. Very soon all sorts of quaint-shaped creatures will one by one appear, and climb up into the golden dishes of the buttercup flowers, or on to the bending-grasses to look at you; little demure beetles will nod their heads and move their antennae suspiciously; then will follow dainty ladybirds in their gay shells, and stealthy timid insects, who will keep down low in the grass, and peep out at the intruder into their dominion, and pugnacious red ants, who fear nothing. A grasshopper is safe to vault over you acrobatically. A moment after, a white butterfly will career near you, reconnoitering for the hidden fairies; and little black dragon-flies, with bodies like mere threads of sapphire, will skim past with their gauzy wings, wondering who on earth you are and what you want. Swallows will dart by with a curved flight, which is the poetry of motion. Gusts of wild-rose leaves will scatter over you from the neighboring hedges. All at once, as you lie half asleep, you will remember what it is like. Why, of course, you are like Bottom, the transformed weaver of Athens, waited on by the fairies. The lark above, almost out of sight in the warm blue air, is, no doubt, Titania herself, singing to you before she descends at twilight and changes her shape, and transforms the creatures that surround you into Peas-blossom, Cobweb and the rest. They will dance around you, and then, kneeling, offer you refreshments, dew in acorn-cups and honey in rose-leaves. They will—but gradually the air gets stiller, a balmy calmness benumbs you, a sumptuous repose—you are asleep. Probably if you are a family man, the clamor of many children will awake you, and a romping cluster of urchins falling on you, will drag you in to tea; or if you are newly married even a pleasanter form of awakening may arouse you, and two soft little red lips may press yours, and tell the "lazy, lazy fellow," in half a dozen kisses, that supper is ready.

I have often thought how pleasant it would be to go to sleep in the centre of a corn-field—a corn-field where acres of golden spears were swaying to and fro in the wind, and every breeze ploughed momentary furrows that close the instant the breath had passed. That delicious simmering sound would promote slumbers; so also would that ceaseless crackling as of a fire running through straw, which shows that the grain is ripe, and that the dry husks are already parting. The languid poppies would be pleasant drooping over one's head, and fair would flutter the delicious blue of the corn-flower. But then mother earth is hard, and moreover Farmer Giles might shortly object.

I once slept in a tree—that was delicious. I was a boy then, fond of reading, and to get time to myself I used to climb up a big sycamore at the end of our garden with my book, Pope's *Odyssey*, or the Arabian Nights, to find a green tent where I could enjoy my dream-world all alone. With the delight of Jack-of-the-Bean-Stalk, I used to climb and climb till I could find out a snug combination of boughs, where I could either sit or sleep. The thrushes sang to me as I lay there listening to the rustling of the sunny, transparent leaves, or, with book half closed, wondering how Aladdin would ever escape from the cave in which the cruel magician, his proud uncle, had just immured him. Then throwing my arm round a bough, with a delicious fear and a full knowledge that I might break my neck if I let go my hold, I used to snatch a moment or two of sleep. I had precedent for it, too, for some Ethiopian nation, I had heard of from Herodotus, used to live in trees.

There is something supremely delightful in the first night of a country visit. Everything is so quiet. One's ignorance of the place rouses the imagination, and sends it wondering. The sheets are so white, the air so pure; you open the lattice to swell the honeysuckle, and a moth puts out the candle. In the morning the birds greet you with a pleasant welcome; as you paddle across the floor with bare feet, and look out and find the window surrounded with white and crimson roses, a breath of paradise wafts in, rendering even early shaving an exquisite enjoyment.

Brave chivalier with noisy din,  
Scatter the mar of darkness thine.

The pompos turkey-cock on an adjacent farmyard breaks into hysterical laughter in his pharisaical pride at having got up earlier than his master. The geese gabble

as they betake themselves to their fashionable watering place in the nearest meadow, that pond crusted with green weed not unlike mint sauce. On the fresh dewy lawn, all in a grey bloom, thrushes are pulling and hauling at reluctant worms, who, refusing to come up out of the hold, resist and wriggle like detected stowaways. Dishwashers, most graceful and coquettish of birds, are pacing about, flitting their tails over the grass just under the big Portugal laurel; and every now and then scudding after flies, who, intent on ascertaining if their heads are screwed on firmly for the day, do not observe their pursuers till they are swallowed by them. By-and-by the horse begins to awake, some one shuffles unwillingly down stairs, a broom drops with ostentatious clatter. The next thing is the jolting open of a window-shutter; soon after that the kitchen fire begins to crackle, while some one moves chairs about and sings a snatch of some country melody. Presently there is a clatter of young voices, a cry and clamor of children; a bell rings sharply and chidingly. The house is getting up; then there comes the splash of a bath being filled, and the next moment comes a rap at your door, and a rough country voice says in pure Doric:

"If you please, zur, it is past seven, and here's some warm water."

Eastern travelers, who have spent any time in the Desert, say that on their return to civilization and four-posters, there is, for a period, a feeling of constraint and oppression at night that renders sleep almost impossible. They miss the starry canopy and the great airy roof of night's black palace. I can well believe this for I have myself felt a similar transition. Some years ago I rode for ten days or so through a part of Greece; every day's bivouac was an immortal spot. Thebes or Thermopylae, Leuctra or Platae, Delphi or Lepanto. I was literally riding through Thucydides and Plutarch. Sometimes I spent the night at the houses of priests or old officers of the War of Independence; oftener I slept out in the open air. I and my dragonman, our two horses, and my scortie, who drove the baggage horse (such a horse. I wondered sometimes he did not come to pieces on those bridle tracks of white marble round the roots of Parnassus), shifted as best we could. A day's journey or so from Delphi we were bled in a wood close to the Gulf of Corinth: it was a wood of tamarisk and myrtle, myrtle twelve and fourteen feet high, the leaves green and glossy.

We rode on and on through the wood (within sound of the melancholy music of the sea washing upon the deserted shore), like travelers in a fairy story, until, led by the faint ray of the first star, we became aware of a little water-mill, at the dusty door of which sat a stolid old Greek, white with age, but still more with flour, who received us with the immovable, wonderless gravity of the Turk. He slew grimly a thin and muscular fowl which he roughly aroused from his first sleep; he roasted the bird with gravity; he boiled us water; he brought us bread, then, with the servile shyness of a serf, he sat apart under a myrtle tree, getting our coffee ready, affecting to take no notice, but watching everything as I sipped on the edge of my camp-bed. A meditative pipe followed, and then I went to bed in the open air under the shade of a hospitable sycamore. There I lay looking up at the sky. The mountains of the Morea were to the right of me, "the sentinel stars kept their watch in the sky," and gentle influences came to me from heaven. A cloud was my counterpane, clouds were my bed-curtains, the roof of my bed-chamber was star-spangled, the Pleiades tucked me up. I consigned myself to the protection of God and then fell asleep, with a passing thought as to whether there were any wolves still left in that part of Greece. I never slept so soundly, or awoke so refreshed. I was sorry the next night to exchange that spacious and inexpensive bed-chamber for a dirty room at feverish Missolonghi.—*All the Year Round*.

THE MITRAILLEUSE.—The mention of this weapon being frequently made in the war despatches of the day, it will be of interest to our readers to know what sort of a thing it is. We give a short description of the gun taken from *La Propagation Industrielle*.

In a socket, at the upward curved rear end of this frame, sits the steam of a revolving steel cylinder. This has four sets of chambers for the cartridges. Each set consists of five chambers, corresponding to the five barrels of the gun. These chambers when brought in succession to the lower part of the cylinder, are aligned with the rear ends of the barrels, and when at the top, are in line with the surface of a loading table, which has grooves in it so that the cartridges may be easily pushed into the chambers.

The barrels, situated in a horizontal plane, are five in number, and are not parallel but a little farther apart at the muzzle than at the breech. The object of this is to give a scattering fire. There is a system of mechanism which we have not the space to explain in detail, by which the barrels may be adjusted in any desired plane, or placed at different angles with each other, within certain limits. The change of angle is for the purpose of enabling the gunners to sweep a wider or narrower area. When the chambers are brought into line with the barrels, a series of needles or strikers are driven into the rear of the chambers and against the salient part of the cartridges, thus discharging the place, by means of a bar which works automatically.

When it is desired to transport the gun from one place to another, the four legs of the support are brought into a horizontal position, parallel with the barrels, and two men can carry the apparatus with ease. Hence it can be transported without it would be impossible to take a wheeled carriage.

The special advantages claimed for the mitrailleuse are its ease of loading and firing and transportation, its power of throwing continuous volleys in divergent directions, and the facility of varying the direction of the line of fire. In the method of loading, however, other devices seem to be its superior, if in no other respect.

Every French soldier carries a piece of canvas about five feet long by four broad, and a stick; when two of these pieces of canvas are joined together they form a shelter; when six are built up they constitute a tent called at both ends. The French soldier is thus for his little accommodation, independent of baggage animals.

## The Iron Cross of Prussia.

In March, 1811, Frederick William III, of Prussia, father of the present sovereign, instituted the Order of the Iron Cross, for peculiar military or civil distinction in the war then carried on against Bonaparte. Just at that time Prussia, long depressed, had taken a place in the van, and her troops were part of the great German Army of Liberation. The so-called "Confederation of the Rhine," of which Bonaparte had been the head, had been dissolved. Frederick's motto was "Honor and our Country," and this was also adopted by Alexander of Russia. Frederick William had invited his subjects to pour their gold and silver ornaments into the public treasury, whence they would receive iron ones, fashioned in the same forms to preserve in their families—indicating past wealth and present patriotism—and the call had been nobly responded to. Bracelets, necklaces, rings, brooches, crosses, solitaires, earrings of gold, and jewels were taken to the treasury, and then exchanged for similar bijoux, beautifully worked in bronze, and inscribed, "I gave gold for iron, 1813." From that time until the war was ended, golden ornaments were never worn, and hence arose the beautiful Berlin bronze ornaments, so well known and so highly prized throughout Europe, as well as the order of the Iron Cross of Prussia.

The present King of Prussia has revived this, the most honorable national decoration, conferred only for services and high merit during the war of liberation in 1813 and 1815. No other rank will be handicapped for the chase of this reward of courage exhibited on the field of battle, or in shielding the household gods at home, but that of merit. The soldier of Prussia has now before him two classes and a grand cross. The first-class ribbon is to be worn the instant he wins it, on the left breast, where his heart beats, the second-class in the button-hole, where of all places should be supported the flower of valor; the third, a double-sized medal, to dangle round his neck as a cross round the throat of a crusader. But to possess the second he must make good his title to the first. The Grand Cross will be nothing less than signal victory accomplished, the conquest of an important position or place, or the brave defense of a fortress. The iron cross was the glory of glories during the wars of liberation. Even when you had won it, it yet remained to be won; for the number of these precious badges were limited, and its recipient had not only to distinguish himself against the foe, but to wait till one of his fortunate fellow-countrymen possessing it died. He might, however, have handed it down to his son as an heir-loom. Here, then, a bit of cast iron, whose intrinsic value would be magnificently paid for by a few cents, becomes more valuable, to a brave man, than the Sancy diamond or the Kohinoor could possibly be, for it is the perpetual testimony of valor, honor, love of freedom, and the fatherland. Louis Napoleon may distribute baskets full of the insignia of his uncle's celebrated order, but what is their value compared with that of the simple iron cross of Prussia, in itself a trophy and a history? It has been revived, King William declares to his German friends and subjects, "in consideration of the serious situation in which the country is now placed, and in memory of the heroic actions of our fathers during the War of Liberation."

## Bismarck's Policy.

The Prussian army is steadily marching towards Paris, and will not probably meet with serious obstacles until it has reached the fortifications of the French Capital. A telegram stated a day or two ago, that Jules Favre, in his capacity of Minister of Foreign Affairs, had sent a special messenger to the King of Prussia. The leaders of the French Republic